

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been examined in the present application. Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamada (U.S. Pat. No. 6,008,440) in view of (European Patent EP 0711655 A2). Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamada. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the below remarks.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamada in view of European Patent EP 0711655. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claims 1, 5 and 10 explicitly require that a density of the laminated body is "0.8 to 1.4 g/cm<sup>3</sup>". Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is neither taught nor suggested by Yamada, EP0 711655 or the combination thereof.

In paragraph 17 of the office action, it is stated that the density feature of claims 1, 5 and 10 is disclosed in Yamada in Column 4, Line 54. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

At the cited portion of Yamada, it is taught that "[t]he expansion ration of the cellutlar layer ranges from 1.3 to 1.5, and the density falls within 0.65 g/cm<sup>3</sup> to o.72 g/cm<sup>3</sup>." (Yamada column 4, lines 53-54). The description in Yamada is directed to the density of the cellular layers 10F/G/H/J such as acrylic foam urethane foam and rubber foam, not to the claimed "laminated body" as distinctly recited in claims 1, 5 and 10.

For example, the cellular layers 10F and 10G in Yamada are provided between wooden plates 10D and 10B as well as between plates 10B and 10A, respectively. This is done to prevent the wooden plates from peeling and to enhance the vibration damping characteristics. (Yamada column 4, lines 37-40 and lines 63-67; Figure 4). In contrast to what is disclosed in Yamada, Applicant recited that the density of the **laminated body** is "0.8 to 1.4 g/cm<sup>3</sup>". (Emphasis added)

As Yamada does not disclose the expressly recited density limitation of independent claims 1, 5 and 10, withdrawal of the rejection of all claims on the basis of Yamada is respectfully requested.

The addition of European Patent EP 0711655 does not cure the above-mentioned deficiency in Yamada because EP '655 is silent about the laminated body. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 5 and 10 on the basis of Yamada in view of EP '655 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 6-9 and 11 are directly or indirectly dependent on independent claims 1, 5 and 10. Therefore, all of the above arguments involving claims 1, 5 and 10 are equally applicable to dependent claims 2-4, 6-9 and 11. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4, 6-9 and 11 on the basis of Yamada in view of EP '665 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamada in view of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

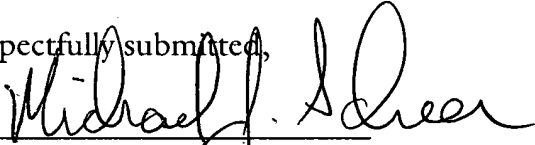
As argued above, Yamada does not disclose "a density of 0.8 to 1.4 g/cm<sup>3</sup>," as explicitly recited in claim 10. Applicants respectfully submit that the addition of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention does not cure Yamada's deficiency in disclosing the density limitation in claim 10. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 10 on the basis of Yamada in view of one of ordinary skill in the art is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 is dependent on and include all of the limitations of base claim 10. Therefore, all of the above arguments regarding independent claim 10 apply equally to dependent claims 11. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 11 on the basis of Yamada in view of one of ordinary skill in the art is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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